witness this incredible event. This was the first mission of its kind ever undertaken by NASA, and it will give us new insight into the origins of our solar system. Deep Impact is important not only for the science that it will yield, but also for the technical feat it represents. Temple I, the comet into which Deep Impact was steered, was traveling at 23,000 miles per hour some 268 million miles from Earth.

Deep Impact was not the first time I have been able to witness first hand the amazing things that NASA and its scientists are capable of accomplishing. I was also at JPL in January of 2004 when the Mars Rover Spirit landed. Both Rovers have far surpassed their expected operational life and are still making discoveries on the Martian surface. Deep Impact, the Cassini-Huygens Probe, the Mars Rovers, and many missions before them, are all examples of what's right with NASA.

NASA's missions are important not only for what we learn from them, but also for what they inspire us to do. NASA's missions and educational programs give our youth a sense of what is made possible by the sciences. Mathematics, engineering, and chemistry are all vitally important fields and are at the forefront of American innovation in the global economy. Without federal investment in NASA-sponsored programs, we would lose an important part of our technological edge in the world.

With the Space Shuttle's imminent return to flight, and so many other exciting missions on the horizon, there is no reason why we cannot accomplish the bold vision that President Bush has outlined for space exploration. As Dr. Charles Elachi has so aptly stated after being named Director of JPL, ''We will continue to do what has never been done before, and go where no one has gone before.'' I commend the Members of the Science Committee for recognizing the important role that NASA plays not only in our society, but in our economy as well, and urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Chairman, since 1990 the Hubble Space Telescope, HST, has inspired scientists and students' alike. Unlike ground-based telescopes, HST is uninhibited by the Earth's atmosphere and therefore uniquely suited to capture images from distant space with high image clarity. HST allows us to look further back in time to the universe's earliest days.

By design, the Hubble Telescope requires regular servicing missions. These missions have occurred in 1993, 1997, 1999, and 2002, and the mission scheduled for 2004 was postponed after the *Columbia* Shuttle tragedy. Servicing missions allow us to repair broken parts of the telescope and to add additional components that improve viewing abilities by ten degrees or more.

Our next servicing mission would repair three faulty gyroscopes that failed in April 2003. Without this mission, HST will continue to operate in degraded mode. There is only a 50 percent chance that HST will be in operation past March 2007 without a servicing mission. Beyond 2007, the chance for continued operation of HST declines significantly.

On January 16, 2004 former NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe informed workers at the Space Telescope Science Institute at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center (which built Hubble and oversees STScI) that he was canceling SM–4, a Hubble Servicing mission, because the shuttle would not have the International Space Station as a safe haven. The implication was that shuttles that have the ISS as a safe-haven are safer, but this claim is not supported by NASA or STSI experts.

I am pleased to see Congress respond to this decision, and to authorize a Hubble servicing mission in the near future. Section 302 of base bill takes into consideration the recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences, and states that ''it is the sense of the Congress that the Hubble Space Telescope is an extraordinary instrument that has provided, and should continue to provide, answers to profound scientific questions . . . all appropriate efforts should be expended to complete the Space Shuttle servicing mission. Upon successful completion of the planned return-to-flight schedule of the Space Shuttle, the schedule for a Space Shuttle servicing mission to the Hubble Space Telescope shall be determined, unless such a mission would compromise astronaut safety.''

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to pay tribute to the excellent work being carried out daily by the men and women at NASA Ames Research Center, located in my district in California's Silicon Valley.

For over half a century, NASA Ames has been one of the world's premiere research labs, leading the scientific community in a wide range of endeavors as it provides vital support to NASA's core missions.

Located in the Silicon Valley, our nation's cutting-edge technology center, NASA Ames has created partnerships with leading universities and high-technology industry leaders, and brought the scientific, academic, and business communities together in multifaceted efforts to expand knowledge and explore the unknown.

As NASA begins to rise to the challenges laid out in the new Vision for Space Exploration, NASA Ames will lead the way in mission-enabling research within its core competencies of astrobiology, advanced supercomputing, intelligent adaptive systems, entry systems, and air traffic management systems. All but entry systems are uniquely resident at NASA Ames, and they represent the critical skills, facilities and people that are needed to meet NASA's mission, including the Vision for Space Exploration.

Over the last decade, NASA Ames has taken full advantage of its strategic location to create new partnerships between the private sector and federal researchers. Following the disestablishment of the Naval Air Station Moffett Field in 1991, NASA took the initiative to develop on existing federal property the NASA Ames Research Park, which today is home to over 30 companies and over 13 universities conducting collaborative research with NASA.

Thanks to this forward-thinking model for federal land reuse, major new construction plans are in motion, including a plan by the University of California to build a 120,000 square-foot Bio-Info-Nano Convergence Research & Development Lab, a project which I have been proud to support.

Mr. Chairman, I, along with many of my colleagues, have expressed deep concerns in recent months over proposed cuts to science funding within NASA's budgets. While some shifting of funding priorities is to be expected as NASA prepares to implement its new Vision for Space Exploration, my core concern has been the danger we face in losing the long-term viability of NASA's Science mission, and the risk we face in harming our Nation's ability to lead the rest of the world in scientific and high-technology innovation.

I'm pleased that the bill before us addresses my concerns in three key areas. The increases in science funding will go a long way toward ensuring the long-term viability of NASA's in-house research and development capability. To protect NASA's top-notch talent and critical skills, the bill protects Civil Service workers by blocking any layoffs until February 2007. To ensure we honor our commitment to the International Space Station, the bill expresses the Sense of the Congress of the important need to complete the centrifuge aboard the station, an important component of the Space Station Biological Research Project, which has the potential to yield enormous benefits for human systems understanding, a critical need if we are going to safely send astronauts to Mars and back.

Mr. Chairman, this is a good bill for NASA and our nation's innovation capability as a whole. I consider NASA, and the irreplaceable staff, expertise, and abilities housed at NASA Ames Research Center a national treasure, and one that deserves our fullest support as it continues to shape the technologies and understanding that will guide our nation in the 21st Century.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 3070, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005. In particular, I am happy to see that important provisions in regards to the future of our nation's aeronautics policy were included in the bill before us today.

Over 4 years ago, the European Union unveiled its plan for gaining dominance in the global aerospace market entitled, ''European Aeronautics: A Vision for 2020.'' This plan laid out an ambitious, $93 billion, 20-year agenda for winning global leadership in aeronautics and aviation. In stark contrast, however, NASA aeronautics funding has declined dramatically over the past decade, from a high of $1.54 billion in 1994 to $906 million just last year.

As a result, the United States has put its leadership in cutting edge aeronautics R&D at risk. We are losing high paying jobs and intellectual capital critical to our economy and national defense. The only way the U.S. can continue to create high wage, high value jobs and maintain aerospace leadership is to innovate faster than the rest of the world.

To do this, we need an exciting and robust NASA aeronautics program that not only revitalizes current research but also fosters future innovation. This requires a long term national investment in critical research of emerging technologies and the training of highly skilled Americans to lead our aeronautics industry into the future.

H.R. 3070 is a step in the right direction. While it does not authorize the levels of funding necessary to fully robust NASA's aeronautics programs, it does authorize an additional $60 million more than the President's FY06 budget request. In addition, the bill requires the President to answer Europe's aeronautics plan by developing a national aeronautics policy to guide NASA's aeronautics

programs through 2020. This is bill is a good start, but there is still much more that Congress can—and must—do to ensure that America does not lose its edge in aeronautics research.

I applaud the work of Mr. GORDON, the ranking member of the Science Committee and Mr. UDALL, the ranking member on the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee, for their hard work in ensuring that aeronautics R&D was not forgotten in this bill. Their efforts were integral in ensuring that many of the provisions of H.R. 2358, the Aeronautics Research and Development Revitalization Act, were included in the bill before us today.

Again, I thank the members of the Science Committee for their dedication to the American aeronautics industry, and look forward to continuing to work with them to ensure that NASA has the direction and resources necessary to once again make America the unsurpassed aeronautics leader in the world.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of this bill to authorize funding for NASA programs over the next two fiscal years.

Over the years, NASA as a government agency has stream lined and reduced their cost and has done amazing research and developed innovative technology. They are a model agency which should be applauded as a role model for other government agencies to follow.

I am pleased this bill will authorize $150 million for maintenance and repair of the Hubble Space Telescope by a manned mission. As this bill states, the Hubble telescope is an ''extraordinary instrument'' that has given us immense understanding and knowledge about the far reaching edges of the universe since its launch in 1990.

I am also pleased this bill does not set a specific date for the retirement of the space shuttle. The shuttle has performed 113 flights since 1981, and is crucial to our vision of space exploration. While I agree we need to move beyond the shuttle at some point, we should not retire our only means for transporting humans into space without having a replacement vehicle ready to continue that mission.

One of the most important benefits NASA provides does not occur on the launch pad, in the laboratories, or in space however, but in the classrooms of schools across this country. NASA is to science and math, what the National Football League and the National Basketball Association are to amateur sports; our space program inspires high school, middle school, and even elementary school students to take an interest in math and science.

Since 1997, I have had the privilege of having NASA astronauts visit middle schools in the congressional district I represent. The interaction of these middle school students with the astronauts and the questions they ask about space and NASA, demonstrate the benefits of our space program and the impact it has in getting students excited about these subjects.

Mr. Chairman, as a member of the Houston delegation, home to the Johnson Space Center, I have been an avid supporter of NASA. As we return to flight, possibly as early as next Tuesday, this bill authorizes funding necessary to fulfill our vision for the future of the space program. I strongly support this bill and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3070, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005.

Technology and innovation are a vital force behind our Nation's prosperity, and NASA continues to advance our scientific, security, and economic interests through its cutting-edge work.

NASA conducts flight training for the Space Shuttle program in my congressional district of El Paso, Texas. My constituents have also benefited from NASA programs that provide local schools with funding to improve student learning in science and mathematics. In addition, small businesses in El Paso have received contracts with NASA, the University of Texas at El Paso has been awarded education grants, and local students have received scholarships to study science and engineering.

H.R. 3070 will help NASA advance its work in my district and across America.

Mr. Chairman, I urge all of my colleagues to give this important, bi-partisan bill their support.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Chairman, I rise to congratulate the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee and the Full Science Committee for bringing this bipartisan bill to the House Floor.

I am a Member of the House Appropriations Committee, and I have served on NASA's funding subcommittee for some years now.

Since the President first challenged NASA to permanently extend mankind's presence beyond Earth orbit, we have looked to the Science Committee to bring a bill to the Floor that allows the full House to weigh in on this new mission.

Today we are considering a NASA authorization bill that thoughtfully addresses the future of our Nation's space program. This may well be one of the most critical NASA authorization bills in decades.

NASA has been given a bold challenge of exploration that calls for returning the Shuttle fleet to flight, completing the International Space Station, returning to the Moon in little more than a decade, and future missions to Mars and beyond.

This bill endorses NASA's Vision for Space Exploration, and includes full funding for the exploration activities. It recognizes the importance of returning the Space Shuttle fleet to flight as the first step in the exploration vision. It highlights the importance of scientific research onboard the International Space Station. And this legislation preserves and strengthens Space and Earth science.

The bill also helps ensure that the agency will have strong management plans for its workforce and for its facilities. And I hope that we can continue to strengthen this bill in conference.

In particular, it is important that Congress addresses the consequences of the Iran Nonproliferation Act on the crew escape needs for the Space Station.

We should ensure a balanced approach to our Nation's nonproliferation policy—one that maintains a strong nonproliferation stance while preserving peaceful cooperation with Russia in the area of human space exploration.

I also hope that we can re-look at some of the many reporting requirements that are contained in this legislation during conference.

Mr. Chairman, I have the privilege to represent the employees and contractors of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in my congressional district.

During the *Apollo* program, my constituents were challenged to help lead mankind's first steps of exploration off of our planet Earth. They responded by developing the *Saturn 1, Saturn IB* and the *Saturn 5* rockets, and the F1 and the J2 rocket engines. They developed the Lunar Roving Vehicle that transported astronauts on the lunar surface. They developed Skylab, America's first crewed orbiting space station.

And today, they are ready to get on with the hard work of finishing the job—permanently extending mankind's presence beyond Earth orbit.

Mr. Chairman, as our Nation prepares for the historic launch of the Shuttle *Discovery* and the return of America's ability to launch humans into space, I will support this balanced legislation that we are considering today.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I congratulate the Science Committee and Chairman BOEHLERT and Ranking Member GORDON on bringing to the floor a fair, balanced NASA authorization bill. The unanimous vote to report the bill out of the committee is testament to the positive outcome that results when Members work together in a bipartisan fashion to make good public policy.

And this is a good bill for NASA, for Goddard Space Flight Center in my district, and the American people. The bill restores our investment in a more vigorous, forward-looking space agency and provides multi-year funding and detailed policy guidance to NASA at a critical time in the history of space exploration.

NASA has a unique set of challenges as we seek to return to flight and expand our reach in space. What we do now will determine how well we meet those challenges in the future.

That's why I was pleased to see that the bill included $150 million for a new servicing mission to the Hubble Space Telescope and a directive to NASA to devise a plan to send a crew to repair the Hubble Telescope after completion of the currently planned space shuttle mission.

This funding is a clear recognition by the Committee of the unique role that the Hubble Space Telescope plays in broadening our scientific understanding of the observable universe. I applaud the call for a manned servicing mission to repair Hubble and extend its life so that future generations will be able to further understand and explore distant galaxies and the mysteries of space. I look forward to working with my colleagues to make sure that a new servicing mission is adequately funded and supported.

The bill also renews focus on the significance and future of science research. While Mars/Moon exploration also continues to be a major focus of the work at NASA, we must not lose sight of the needs and promise of a core area of future inquiry such as science. This bill finds the right balance. Not only does the bill provide increase funding for NASA science programs, but it also directs NASA to develop a comprehensive science policy through 2016, complete with proposed missions, priorities, budget, and staff to bring much-needed focus back onto science research. This will go a long way in bringing new focus to science in the 21st Century.